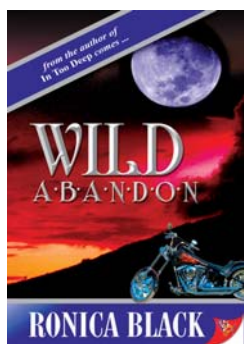


Book Review: April 2006

by Cheri Rosenberg



Wild Abandon

Ronica Black

ISBN: 1-933110-35-X

Trade paper, 256 pp, \$15.95

March, 2006

Lesbian Romance/Erotica

Bold Strokes Books, Inc.

www.boldstrokesbooks.com

Dr. Chandler (Chan) Brogan, an adventurous emotionally charged sex therapist meets a reserved control freak cop, Officer Sarah Monroe, who pulls her over for speeding in the satisfying and steamy romance between two women who are destined to be together despite their painful pasts. A literary award finalist for Lambda and Golden Crown for her debut novel, *In Too Deep*, Ronica Black has once again given her fans another riveting novel, *Wild Abandon*.

After a negative experience with a past girlfriend, Chan goes from one casual sexual encounter to another – that is when she's not riding her bike with wild abandon because, "Next to speed and the need for that adrenaline rush, sex did top her list" (p. 30). Chan is a psychologist but that doesn't mean she has control over her own issues. The first time Chan sees Sarah the attraction is purely physical and her fantasy complete. Surprisingly, Chan finds she doesn't want another fling but perhaps something more. It's refreshing and yet Sarah makes it difficult for them to build a relationship.

"[Sarah] had worked hard to build a nice life for herself. A tidy, comfortable apartment, a great job, and attainable goal with the FBI. *And no one to share it with*" (p. 57). She manages to keep her raw emotions in check and remain detached in order to forget her tumultuous childhood. That is until she meets Chan. No matter how many times Sarah runs away, she cannot get Chan out of her mind. Sarah even has trouble opening up to her one and only friend, fellow cop Dave Houston. Dave asks for nothing but friendship in return but it is still hard for Sarah to trust anyone.

Chandler also has trouble with trust and commitment but she feels compelled to help Sarah get over her angst. Can these two women, both bogged down with emotional baggage, ever connect the way they are meant to be together?

Wild Abandon has the key elements for a powerful romance. The dramatic plot elements, the moving character journeys, and the passionate sexual climaxes are written with equal intensity. Black uses the right shot of adrenaline to achieve that edgy voice characteristic of both, her debut novel, *In Too Deep*, and now *Wild Abandon*.

I highly recommend *Wild Abandon* to readers who thrive on hot sizzling sex, exploring inner feelings, fast-paced drama that keeps you glued, and a romance that fits all the criteria for happily ever after. What I enjoy best about Black's writing is how easily I can get into the characters' heads and know what they are thinking and feeling. I can be them in my mind if I choose. It is great watching Chan's loved ones try to tame her reckless ways. I could live vicariously through her as she speeds along the highway or succumbs to the ultimate pleasure repeatedly at the talented hands and other body parts of Officer Sarah Monroe. And Sarah, so tough on the outside, so in control, and a total sweep you off your feet sort of gal, well, even with all her inner turmoil, cool reserve, and almost standoffishness at times, you just can't help loving her and wishing to be the one to make her pain go away. Don't miss *Wild Abandon*. You'll enjoy the ride – it's wild!

Reprinted with permission.



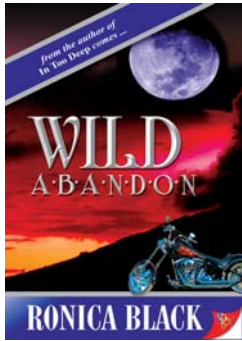
Order from these Distributors:

CDS.....800 343-4499 Baker & Taylor.....800 775-1100
Ingram.....800 937-8000 Bookazine....800 548-3855

Direct from BellaDistribution
800 533-1973

Book Review: May 2006

by Arlene Germain (reviewer at MBR and L-Word Literature)



Wild Abandon

Ronica Black

ISBN: 1-933110-35-X

Trade paper, 256 pp, \$15.95

March, 2006

Lesbian Romance/Erotica

Bold Strokes Books, Inc.

www.boldstrokesbooks.com

Midwest Book Review

278 Orchard Drive
Oregon, WI 53575-1129
Phone: 1-608-835-7937
E-mail: mwbookrevw@aol.com

James A. Cox
Editor-in-Chief

In Ronica Black's novel, *Wild Abandon*, we meet Dr. Chandler Brogan, a clinical psychologist and expert in the field of sexual dysfunction. As she and her brother Hank race their motorcycles down the highway, Officer Sarah Monroe pulls them both over for several traffic violations. It is this first encounter that sets the stage for the ensuing battle of wills that will carry each woman to levels of desire and intimacy which neither one has experienced before. Further complicating the situation are mutually dark secrets, a crazed ex-husband, and a myriad of conflicting emotions that set the stage for an exciting and fulfilling reading experience.

Black has managed to create two very sensual and compelling women. Each appears to be functioning quite well in a superficially impersonal way. However, their chance meeting creates that small fissure in their personalities which will ultimately either transform or destroy the selves they strive to be. These are not caricatures of perfect young and successful lesbian professionals which one all too often encounters in today's genre. They are three-dimensional, flawed, yet aspiring, women who, when confronted with the ultimate and inevitable crises that come with 'real' life, react and respond as credible, substantial, and appealing people. The dialogue flows easily and both Chandler and Sarah possess an honesty that is to be valued.

The backstory is intriguing, original, and quite well-developed. Yet, it doesn't detract from the primary premise of the novel—it is a sexually-charged romance about two very different and guarded women. Black carries the reader along at such a rapid pace that the rise and fall of each climactic moment successfully creates that suspension of disbelief which the reader seeks. The author satisfyingly manages to expound upon a few implicit themes about relationships and intimate interaction but manages to do so in a deft, not heavy-handed, fashion.

This reviewer is the first to admit that she was not particularly taken with Black's first novel, *In Too Deep*. However, the style, flow, and transition technique evinced by the author in *Wild Abandon* has grown tremendously. This is what this reviewer searches for when reading several works by an author. Black has a more mature and confident phraseology in this work. The plotting appears more fluidly constructed, more suffused with plausible dialogue, as well as convincing and intelligible characterization. *Wild Abandon* is a novel that displays the author's creative imagination while at the same time boldly exhibits the author's maturation as an author.

Reprinted with permission.



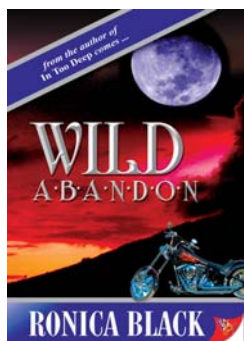
Order from these Distributors:

CDS.....800 343-4499 Baker & Taylor.....800 775-1100
Ingram.....800 937-8000 Bookazine....800 548-3855

Direct from BellaDistribution
800 533-1973

Book Review: June 2006

by Kathi Isserman (reviewer at [JAW](#))



Wild Abandon

Ronica Black

ISBN: 1-933110-35-X

Trade paper, 256 pp, \$15.95

March, 2006

Lesbian Romance/Erotica

Bold Strokes Books, Inc.

www.boldstrokesbooks.com

Just About Write

Web site:

www.justaboutwrite.com

Nann Dunne
Editor-in-Chief
& Publisher

Ronica Black has proven once again that she is an awesome storyteller with her new romance *Wild Abandon*. With her second published novel, she has crafted an erotic, sensual and well paced tale.

Black dives right into the plot, immediately creating tension between the two protagonists. Dr. Chandler Brogan is pulled over and arrested by Officer Sarah Monroe for exceeding the speed limit on her motorcycle. The battle for control begins with this scene, and the conflict extends throughout, capturing our attention with an emotionally charged story.

Both Sarah and Chan like their sex steamy, unencumbered and where each holds the ultimate power. During their repeated chance encounters, we experience this clash of wills and struggle for dominance while Black increases their desire and wanting. The author's imagery of fast driving, open roads, and the resulting freedom is analogous with the themes of sexual dominance and power and paints a vivid picture. The back story is seamlessly woven in and gives the reader a better understanding of who the characters are and why each must be in control. Black sets this apart by using italics so the reader is never confused. The above devices form the meat of *Wild Abandon* and turn this novel into a very hot and well written book.

Black is a master at teasing the reader with her use of domination and desire. Emotions pour endlessly from the pages, moving the plot forward at a pace that never slows or gets dull. But Black doesn't stop there. She is intent on giving the reader more. *Wild Abandon* hints at a plot twist early on, and while we know who it involves, we do not know what will happen, and how, until the last minute, effectively keeping us spellbound.

Black's first novel *In Too Deep* is a finalist for a 2005 Lammy and for two GCLS awards. With *Wild Abandon* the author continues her winning ways, writing like a seasoned pro. This is one romance I will not soon forget.

Reprinted with permission.



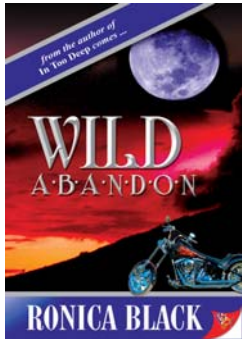
Order from these Distributors:

CDS.....800 343-4499 Baker & Taylor.....800 775-1100
Ingram.....800 937-8000 Bookazine....800 548-3855

Direct from BellaDistribution
800 533-1973

Book Review: July 14 2006

by R. Lynne Watson (reviewer at [MegaScene](#))



Wild Abandon

Ronica Black

ISBN: 1-933110-35-X

Trade paper, 256 pp, \$15.95

March, 2006

Lesbian Romance/Erotica

Bold Strokes Books, Inc.

www.boldstrokesbooks.com

MegaScene

611 S. Palm Canyon Drive, Suite
7B

Palm Springs, California 92264

(760) 327-5178

Fax (760) 778-1968

E-mail: megascene5@dc.rr.com

Bob Hoven

Ronica Black, author of *In Too Deep*, has given her fans another fast paced novel of romance and danger. As previously, Black develops her characters fully, complete with their quirks and flaws. She is also skilled at allowing her characters to grow, and to find their way out of psychic holes. *Wild Abandon* is the story of Chan Brogan and Sarah Monroe. Chan in her professional life is Dr. Chandler Brogan. She is a clinical psychologist who treats clients with sexual dysfunction. Sarah is a police officer who has just applied to the F.B.I.

Chan relieves her private stress with sex and speeding recklessly down the highway on her motorcycle. Sarah uses control to keep away her private demons. When Sarah pulls Chan over for reckless driving, sparks begin to fly.

Wild Abandon tells how these two women work through their problems. It tells how they come to realize that "life was too precious to be ruled by...fears, by ...demons." While these two women struggle with their issues, there is some very, very hot sex. If you enjoy complex characters and passionate sex scenes, you'll love *Wild Abandon*.

Reprinted with permission.



Order from these Distributors:

CDS.....800 343-4499 Baker & Taylor.....800 775-1100

Ingram.....800 937-8000 Bookazine....800 548-3855

Direct from BellaDistribution
800 533-1973